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Fact Sheet

ICE Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC)

The Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) is a national enforcement operations facility administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It is the single national point of contact that provides timely immigration status and identity information to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies on aliens suspected, arrested, or convicted of criminal activity.

Located in Williston, Vermont, the LESC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to supply real-time assistance to law enforcement officers who are investigating or have arrested foreign-born individuals involved in criminal activity. The primary users of the LESC are state and local law enforcement officers seeking information about aliens encountered in the ordinary course of their daily enforcement activities. The LESC receives queries from federal, state, and local correctional and court systems seeking information about individuals in custody or encountered elsewhere in a criminal justice system. Law Enforcement officers have immediate access to alien records entered in the NCIC (National Crime Information Center) and immigration information from every alien file maintained by the Department of Homeland Security – approximately 93 million records – by accessing the IAQ (Immigration Alien Query) database through the NCIC.

Some accomplishments in fiscal year 2004 include:

- From FY 2003 to FY 2004, the LESC saw a 100 percent increase in the number of new records entered in the NCIC. In FY 2004, 51,754 records were entered compared to FY 2003, where 24,599 records were entered.
- The LESC experienced a 100 percent increase in the number of deported felons and absconders identified and located by ICE through the NCIC database from FY 2003 to FY 2004. In FY 2003, 3,310 individuals were identified and located; 6,122 criminal and wanted aliens were identified and located in FY 2004. ICE detainers were lodged by the LESC against all positively confirmed NCIC hits. The LESC saw an unprecedented and improved response time to calls; the LESC responds within 10 minutes to all requests for hit confirmations on NCIC records it maintains.

- In FY 2004, the LESC showed a 200 percent increase in the number of absconders identified and located through NCIC, totaling more than 1,800 as compared to FY 2003 where 488 absconders were identified and located.
- The LESC's number of queries processed for the Secret Service in connection with screening potential White House visitors increased by 40 percent in FY 2004. The LESC assisted in the screening of 43,400 potential visitors in FY 2004 compared to 27,977 in FY 2003.
- The LESC has fielded more calls than ever before and continues to thrive as the centerpiece of ICE's information sharing efforts. In FY 2004, the ICE tip-line (1-866-DHS-2ICE) was fully integrated into ICE and LESC operations. The LESC answered 27,671 calls to the tip-line in FY 2004. The tip-line receives an average of 175 phone calls a day on a broad range of topics. Information is analyzed and leads are immediately transmitted to the local ICE office with jurisdiction over the area from which the call was initiated.

In addition to providing immigration and identity information on suspected criminal aliens, the LESC offers other vital services, including:

- **National Crime Information Center (NCIC)** – The LESC administers and controls immigration-related cases in this nationwide law enforcement consortium and criminal databases for ICE.
- **Investigative Services** – The LESC provides support to a host of ongoing multi-agency investigative initiatives. Working in concert with ICE field units, task forces, and other local, state, and federal investigators, the LESC gathers, analyzes, and responds to thousands of query requests.
- **Special Response Unit (SRU)** – The LESC's Special Response Unit is the central point of contact for a number of special information requests. For example, the LESC conducts "Brady Checks" for the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) program, screening all foreign-born applicants for firearm permits for immigration status before being authorized to purchase or possess a weapon. The SRU also handles queries related to national security employment issues (e.g. nuclear industry employment and commercial drivers with hazardous materials clearance).
- **Law Enforcement Training** – To help officers in the field make better use of information the LESC provides, the center offers a training program that provides instruction on how to access LESC information and on ICE's role and responsibilities. Training has most recently been provided to federal, state, and local officers in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Texas, and Washington, D.C.